

Subject: FW: Asbestos Cement water pipe

Date: Sat, 26 Jul 2003 10:21:08 -0700

From: "Ernie Crist" <ernie_crist@dnv.org>

To: "FONVCA (E-mail)" <fonvca@fonvca.org>, <cagebc@yahoo.com>

Subject: RE: Asbestos Cement water pipe

Dear Mr.

In 1984 District Council, with my strong personal support, set up a special Infrastructure Reserve Fund to enable the District to replace all old water pipes including wood and asbestos cement pipes by the year 2000. Those Reserve Funds in 1997 had reached \$ 91 million or \$1,300 per capita enough to complete the replacement program as planned.

However, those Reserve Funds have been used up without carrying out the program. Much of the money has been used up for other purposes. At the same time, District taxes have gone from the second lowest in the Region to the second highest. In addition to that, the District has also used up most of its Heritage Fund which, if allowed to accumulate as planned in 1987, today would amount to at least \$200 million. This does not include money used from the Heritage Fund for genuine Capital projects.

Much of this Fund, totally contrary to its original intention, has and continues to be used to cover operating expenses more or less. In short, the District has been mismanaged to an extent that can only be described as astounding by any standard.

All this has been pointed out in the press and during the last and previous election campaigns. Councillor Munroe, a District Councillor and I even went to the trouble of spending our own personal money (not during the election) to make a special appeal to the community to intervene and stop this colossal incompetence and misappropriation of the public's wealth but without success.

This community was singularly apathetic and silent. For my troubles in attempting to stop this fiscal irresponsibility I have been harassed, muzzled and discriminated against while Councillor Munroe, the one and only Councillor to support me, was voted out of office.

I truly regret that the District leadership during the last 13 years mismanaged not only the public's wealth but also played God with the public's health, more or less. I also regret that, with the exception of a few citizens, this community is still mostly silent about what in other jurisdictions would be considered nothing less than a crime.

Needless to say, I will continue to do my duty. For further clarification you may wish to get in touch with Dr. Corry Kost of FONVCA, the Federation of North Vancouver Community Associations. Dr. Kost is an outstanding Community activist and a person of the highest integrity who has done considerable research in virtually all matters of District jurisdiction.

Thank you for bringing your concerns to my attention,

Yours truly,

Ernie Crist

---Original Message----

Sent: Thursday, July 24, 2003 5:45 PM

To: Janice Harris; Ernie Crist; Maureen McKeon Holmes; Lisa Muri; Alan Nixon; Richard Walton; Don Bell

Subject: Asbestos Cement water pipe

I learned that our neighbourhood is served by asbestos cement water pipes. In this


neighbourhood, the District has made a number of water main repairs in the past few years. I'm told these pipes become "punky" with age and break easily. That may be the reason that repairs have been required. I also learned that, as they disintegrate, these pipes give off more asbestos fibres.

I am surprised that we may be exposed to ingestion and inhalation of this dangerous mineral from our domestic water supply. Our block has at least two long term residents suffering unusual and life threatening cancers. Obviously, we fear a connection.

The District web site discusses water quality but nothing mentions asbestos. A District employee told me that engineering knows this type of pipe needs replacement but he did not indicate that was because of health risk or (more likely) high failure rate.

It is important to conduct independent tests to measure the quantity of asbestos fibres present in tap water of homes served by asbestos cement pipes. If the water is contaminated, individuals are at risk, particularly families that use vaporizers or showers regularly.

We cannot rely upon research funded by potentially liable industries and agencies and assume that risk in this matter is insignificant. Asbestos builds in the tissues over time and is a potent carcinogen. In addition to comprehensive testing by an independent laboratory, epidemiologists should survey the nature of health defects suffered by residents exposed to water carried in asbestos cement pipes.

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